RUMANIA'S ECONOMIC POLICY

ticularly at the oil industry, prescribed the manner in which they were to be exploited. The development of these resources was to be entrusted to corporations or "régies" in which the Government as well as private capital, both Rumanian and foreign, would participate, but in such a way as to permit of the majority of shares being controlled by the Rumanian Government. At the same time laws were enacted for increasing the utilization of methane gas (C.H.4) which was already in use both for lighting and heating purposes in Transylvania, and which is available as a large source of industrial power, its output being calculated to amount to as much as 2,000 million cubic metres per annum, the consumption of which for 1930 reached over 503 million c. metres. The methods used by the Liberal Party to secure a mainhold of the supplies of methane gas are particularly illuminating of the mentality of the leaders of that party, as they were revealed by M. Madgearu in the Rumanian Chamber in 1929. An exclusive monopoly was conferred on a group of "Liberals," who supplied the gas to industrialists at arbitrary prices so as to force the latter out of the market and leave this to rival firms belonging to adepts of the "Liberal" Party. All the efforts of the Liberal Party to promote the nationalization of this gas were aimed at securing the economic mastery of Transylvanian industries. A similar law was also passed dealing with water power, the reserves of which are estimated at 5,206,225 H.P., of which amount 735,425 h.p. represent 50 per cent of the force produced at the Iron Gates by the Danube, 1,422,465 h.p. by the tributaries of the Theiss, 2,164,748 h.p. by the Danube tributaries between the Timish and the Sereth, and the remaining 884,665 h.p. by the Sereth and its tributaries. Of all this potential force only about 52,000 h.p. is actually in use. The State owned practically the totality of the railway lines, most of the extensive fisheries in the marshes and delta of the Danube, the salt mines of Ocnele Mari, Slanic, Uioara and Targu Ocna, which are exploited as a State monopoly and assure to it a revenue of some 700 million lei per annum, over 75 per cent of the entire vast timberlands, several coal and iron mines, the gold mines in the Bihor mountains, the annual output of which is about 2,500 to 3,000 kilogrammes

471 315 382 375 471 665 376 471 665 655

1 July, 1924--Ana Yest

I. COAL

A. Consumption, Imports, Deposits

372 375 Coal has not played such a large part in Rumanian economy as it has in that of most European countries because of the abundant mineral oil and timber resources which have been used extensively for fuel, both in industry and for household purposes. The following table shows the percentage consumption of the different types of fuel (average 1937-39) :—

	%
Firewood	28·7
Oil and oil products	26·1
Coal	25·9
Methane and other gases	17·2
Water power	2·1

The railways accounted for 60 per cent. of total coal consumption which was of the order of 2 million tons, the balance being divided between industry, household consumption and bunkers.

135 Before the war coal reserves, which are predominantly brown coal, were estimated at 2·7 milliard tons brown coal (including lignite), and 48 million tons of hard coal. The more important deposits are located in southern and western Transylvania, while a few of lesser importance are in the northern area which was ceded to Hungary.

316 439 In spite of the limited industrial development of the country and extensive use of oil, coal production is hardly sufficient for current needs, and it has been necessary to import both coal and coke to fill the deficiency.

Pre-war coal imports in metric tons were as follows :—

	Metric Tons
1935	21,000
1936	23,000
1937	28,000